

CHAPTER X

CONTABINI FLEMING AND

ALEOT 1832-1833

Disraeli's pen had not been idle during the last few months of his residence in the East or during the voyage home. *Oontarini Fleming* was not published till May, 1832, and *Alroy* not till March, 1833 ; but when he reached Bradenham in November both works, if not complete, must have been far on the road towards completion. In the Preface to the 1845 edition of *Oontarini* he speaks of the book as having been composed 'in a beautiful and distant land'; in an unpublished letter of later date he couples *Alroy* with *Oontarini* as having been written while he was abroad ; and three months after his return, when *Oontarini* is already in the hands of the publisher, he tells Austen that he has another work finished in his portfolio, and this can only have been *Alroy*. Whatever the external facts, there is internally, at all events, a close association between the two novels. They are spiritually the product of the same period in Disraeli's life, and that the period of the journey in the East, and they are artistically the most sincere and disinterested of his early works, direct emanations from his own personality and inner experience. 'My works,' he writes in the diary to which reference has already been made, 'are the embodiment of my feelings. In *Vivian Grey* I have portrayed my active and real ambition : in *Alroy* my

IH